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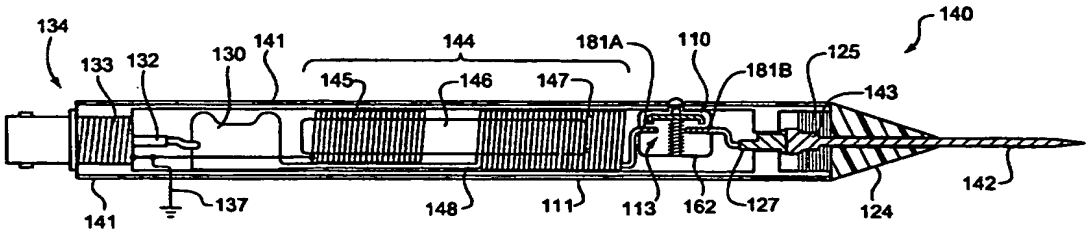
(54) Title: TOOL AND METHOD FOR CUTTING POWERED BY AN ELECTROMAGNETIC (EM) SOURCE



(57) Abstract: A tool (100) for cutting a soft electrically-conductive material, including an RF source (35) connected to an impedance matching circuit (118) which includes a tuning element (130) connected to an inductive element (112) and which in turn is connected to a conductive cutting tip (122) through a switch-contact area (110). The impedance matching circuit and the switch-contact area are encased by a handheld-sized probe housing (111). Also disclosed is a method for using the tool including providing RF power from the source to an impedance matching circuit connected to a conductive cutting tip through a switch-contact area; making contact with the switch-contact area to allow electric current to flow; and positioning the probe in proximity to the soft material such that at least one eddy current is induced within a region of the material to be cut.